

The administration is currently establishing a "Do Not Pay" program based on the White House executive memorandum, Memorandum on Enhancing Payment Accuracy Through a "Do Not Pay List." However, there was no statutory mandate to proceed. The legislation establishes the "Do Not Pay" program in law throughout the Federal Government under a specific timetable.

Third, the legislation targets death fraud and improper payments to deceased individuals. Improper payments include those made to individuals who are deceased, and should therefore no longer be eligible under program rules, yet still receive payments. For example, the Office of Personnel Management Inspector General reported that \$601 million in improper payments were made to Federal retirees found to have already died. However, such payments to dead people were not unique to this one program. Improving the collection and use by Federal agencies of data on deceased beneficiaries will help curb hundreds of millions, if not billions of dollars, in improper payments. The IPERA Improvement Act requires that the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with other agencies and stakeholders, determine a plan for curbing improper payments to deceased individuals.

Finally, the legislation requires that the Office of Management and Budget report to Congress on the current efforts by agencies to recover improper payments, including a listing of agencies that employ outside contractors for recovery efforts, and their current levels and targets for recoveries. This reporting can easily be done as part of the annual report on improper payments currently conducted by the OMB.

I believe passage of the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012 represents an important step toward curbing waste and fraud within the Federal Government. I look forward to working with the administration and Federal agencies to implement the legislation's provisions. I also look forward to working with my congressional colleagues on additional steps during the next legislative session.

CONGRATULATING OLIVIA CULPO, MISS UNIVERSE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am pleased to offer my sincere congratulations to Olivia Culpo, a native of Cranston, RI, on being crowned Miss Universe. After being crowned Miss Rhode Island USA in her first ever pageant competition last year, Olivia's rise to Miss Universe has been nothing short of meteoric. In quick succession she became the first Rhode Islander to ever win the Miss USA competition, and is now the first Miss USA to win the Miss Universe pageant in over a decade. She has made the people of our State very proud.

The Miss Universe title is an acknowledgment of Olivia's exceptional intelligence, talent, and compassion. She was recognized by the National Honor Society for her academic excellence at Rhode Island's St. Mary's Academy Bay View. She currently attends Boston University in neighboring Massachusetts, where she has made the dean's list every semester.

In addition to excelling in her studies, Olivia is a talented and dedicated musician. From a young age, her love for music was cultivated by her proud parents, Peter and Susan Culpo, themselves musicians. She took cello lessons from second grade on, and has since performed with the Rhode Island Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, Rhode Island Philharmonic Chamber Ensemble, Bay View Orchestra, and Rhode Island All State Orchestra. This self-described cellist nerd has also had the honor of performing at Boston Symphony Hall and at Carnegie Hall in New York City, and she completed a tour of England in 2010.

Olivia has already demonstrated a strong drive to make a difference in her community and her country. Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to meet with Olivia here in my Washington office, where she advocated passionately for Federal support of ovarian cancer research. I share her deep concern about the terrible effects of cancer. She is a valuable ally in the search for a cure.

Olivia has given the Ocean State something to be proud of. I am grateful to Olivia Culpo for the example she sets for our children and for being a stellar and faithful representative of the State of Rhode Island on the world stage. I wish her all the best.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ANN MILLNER

• Mr. LEE. Mr. President, Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." In Utah, Weber State University President Ann Millner has lead the charge to increase, improve and enhance higher education opportunities for anyone who has sought them. After 10 years of distinguished service she is stepping down from her post and I rise to honor her today.

Before being selected president of the university, Ann served Weber in a variety of capacities including vice president for university relations, associate dean of continuing education, assistant vice president for community partnerships and director of outreach education in the school of allied health services. President Millner brought with her a well-rounded resume of leadership in education gained at several different universities. She served as education coordinator of the medical technology program at Vanderbilt University, instructional developer in

medical technology at Thomas Jefferson University, a lecturer at the school of health professions, Southwest Texas State University, and associate director of continuing education at the Edmonda campus of Gwynedd-Mercy College. Ann has given her career to the pursuit of improving educational opportunities around the country and that motivation has been central to her administration at Weber.

In 2002, Ann was selected as president of the university from a pool of 55 possible candidates. Regent George Mantes said, "In selecting a president of Weber State University we looked for someone who could lead a university that serves over 17,000 students and who would also be seen as a community leader for Northern Utah. We had terrific people to choose from and feel confident that in selecting Dr. Millner we have found the right person to fill both of these important roles." Mr. Mantes and the selection committee's confidence in President Millner has paid off. Under her leadership Weber State University opened a new campus in Davis and enrollment increased from 17,000 to 25,000. The university has added a number of new programs, certificates, baccalaureate and graduate degrees including seven masters degree programs and countless online course work which all serve to both enhance and expand the educational opportunities offered to students. Weber has gained particular acclaim for its growing engineering Computer and Electronics Engineering Technology department, which focuses on training students in the innovations and technologies of the future. In 2010 President Millner announced the "Dream Weber Program," one of the many scholarship and outreach programs her administration developed to make higher education a possibility for those who would otherwise not have the opportunity.

The new and upgraded facilities on Weber's campus stand as a powerful symbol of the legacy President Millner leaves behind. In addition to an entire new campus in Weber, President Millner oversaw the construction of the Hurst Center for Lifelong Learning, a two-story facility dedicated to helping provide students with opportunities to continue education. She also oversaw the opening of Wildcat Village, a residential housing facility that serves over 500 students with a fun, low-cost housing experience. She also oversaw the construction and opening of Elizabeth Hall, a state-of-the-art classroom building which features multimedia capabilities, writing and tutoring centers and enough classroom space to offer more classes than any other building on campus. These three buildings exemplify some of President Millner's major accomplishments during her presidency: to increase focus on education as a lifelong pursuit, to increase educational opportunities and to enhance educational experiences with cutting-edge technologies and facilities.